

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Narraghmore** Ref: **304**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **251**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	38	39
Streetscape & Public Places	50	29	30
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	31	31
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	20	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	8	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	247	251

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Narraghmore chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Narraghmore Tidy Towns is most welcome to the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition 2018, the 4th year for your new Committee to enter the competition. Thank you for your Application Form and reference Map. Your submission was very clear and concise and provided plenty of good quality information which was most appreciated by the adjudicator. The map showing the various sites of interest (at A3 size), made it very easy to read and was helpful to the adjudicator in navigating around the Village. You have a Committee comprising 8 members, with 20 volunteers, a relatively high level of participation for a village the size of Narraghmore- well done. The Committee has had a lot of meetings and consultations this year as a result of the Village Centre Redesign proposal, the Guinness World Record Attempt and the Town & Village Renewal Grant Scheme application. You engage with a wide range of local organisations and individuals to further your goals and you communicate with the public mainly through Facebook and notices placed with local business premises. It is good to note that Foróige is very active in your village and the teens are getting involved in carrying out Tidy Towns type works such as planting trees and installing bird boxes at various locations in the village. Narraghmore Tidy Towns has been very busy over the last year and the range of projects undertaken and planned over a relatively short period is very impressive. The recent successful events and proposed improvements to the Village Design and confirmation of current funding for projects, has clearly led to a renewed sense of enthusiasm and pride amongst local residents in their own area. It is good to see that the Committee is operating effectively with individual members spearheading projects and improvements based on their own particular skills and experience.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

The presentation of the Courthouse building façade was to a high standard and the colourful lollipop boards here were particularly admired. The small garden to the front had some weed growth and the railings along the front boundary would also benefit from painting. The new plastic bollards setting out the layout of the Village Centre Re-Design for Narraghmore were noted with interest. It is presumed that the area inside the bollards will be paved to create a pedestrian plaza and car free zone and new kerbs will help to regulate traffic movements in the village. The use of permanent bollards in such situations is normally discouraged as these only serve to create visual clutter and when knocked over by vehicles, can become a disamenity. The area around the village pump and 1798 memorial feature was nicely presented. The proposed plaza, new seating and relocated memorial will provide greater comfort for pedestrians, an improved sense of place and walkability in the village. No doubt this area will become an important Community Hub, where local residents can meet for an informal chat. The former Kelly's Grocery and Hardware Store looked a little unloved and we look forward to the time when this building is brought back into use, the façade painted and refreshed and the car park area upgraded as part of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The large gravel car park area here would benefit from landscape treatment and tree planting. The area

around the Credit Union and the Narraghmore Post Office was very well presented. The wide section of footpath in front of the Post Office would be suitable for installing a small flower container to liven up this area with colourful planting. The museum building was visited but unfortunately it did not appear to be open. The historic old Jail building was well presented with expansive area of gravel to the front along the road. The range and quality of future projects planned under this category is impressive and we wish you well with the implementation of these.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You have removed wooden tubs at the entrance to Oak Park and have planted instead directly into the soil here. This is a more sustainable approach to planting. Heavy planting around the namestone at Lipstown Manor has been cut back to reveal the name of the estate and the entrance is now well maintained. The windowboxes at the Post Office were greatly admired. The new paved plaza and road realignments will provide a great opportunity to introduce additional landscaping elements and floral displays into the Centre of the village.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

You are making plans in consultation with the Heritage Department of Kildare County Council regarding organising a Bat Walk later in the year. Have you considered erecting bat boxes and bird boxes on trees in the village. Swifts are now in decline as a migratory bird species and the erection of swift boxes are important in providing nesting sites. Wild Kildare can provide advice on erecting these. It would be great to see walkways provided around Narraghmore Bog to provide controlled public access to the bog landscape. Bogs are unique habitats of great heritage value and are a wonderful educational resource and you are wished well with the implementation of this project.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

It would appear that you have not yet fully got to grips with this category. Primarily, the issue of waste requires to be addressed under the themes of prevention, re-use and re-cycling. Could an old bike be refurbished to create an attractive floral display for the village? Old pallets can be re-used to create bug hotels etc. Energy and Water usage, Transport and Climate Change are also topics to consider under this category. The installation of solar panels is now standard practice in new developments. It would be good to see this approach extended to the older housing stock to continue to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and also to reduce CO2 emissions. The use of water butts to facilitate the watering of gardens during the summer months is important as means of conserving scarce drinking water. Water butts could be installed in the village for the watering of village floral displays. The use of organic mulch on new plantings is also a useful water conservation tool. Promoting the use of low carbon vehicles and pursuing the installation of an electric car charge point(s) in the village would be worthwhile, as well as providing cycle parking facilities at the new pedestrian plaza. Have you tried a car-pooling arrangement? The further promotion of grant aid for the installation of wall and attic insulation on older building stock, the greater use of solar panels on roofs and heat exchange units to reduce energy consumption by households/businesses, are possible initiatives to consider - perhaps in relation to the upgrading of the Kelly's Grocery and Hardware building. Grants are available for this work. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website has good information in relation to the development of Better Energy Communities.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is good to note that clean up days are regularly organised by Narraghmore Tidy Towns and all local residents are invited to take part in these. Thanks are due to Kildare County Council for arranging to remove the collected waste generated from these pick-ups. Your CE worker is very effective on the litter picking front and the centre of the village was generally found to be clean, neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. There were however, some discarded junk items to the front of the museum premises, awaiting pick up. Your general approach to not providing litter bins in the village is correct but a single bin placed outside the Post Office Shop might be worth considering.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The traditional style residential properties located in the village centre add much to the character of the streetscape. It is regrettable that some of these buildings remain unoccupied but it is hoped that this situation will change soon. At Oak Park Estate it was good to see a well presented namestone and attractive houses and gardens. The landscaping scheme to the front could be further enhanced. Lipstown Manor estate was visited and the magnificent views from the estate internal roads across the nearby rolling countryside were particularly enjoyed. This estate is very well maintained and presented.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The roads on the approaches to the village of Narraghmore are generally presented to a high standard with well – maintained boundaries and margins and attractive hedgerows along field boundaries. Road surfaces in the centre of the village are in need of some improvement and it is assumed this may be done as part of the implementation of the Village Centre Re-Design Scheme. The plantings provided along on the Wood Road were admired, However, consider changing the wooden planters here to built stone surround planting beds, which would have greater longevity and require less maintenance. There was an old trailer parked on the margin on the Wood Road which detracted from this approach to the village. No namestone was noted at the Orchard Estate. Along the road to Cuckles Cross, the village namestone is hidden and it would be beneficial to have this cleaned, raised up and enhanced with a suitable floral display or perennial planting scheme.

Concluding Remarks:

Narraghmore Tidy Towns has put a great effort over the last year into improving your Village for the benefit of local residents and visitors alike, as is evidenced in your submission and the projects planned and those noted on the ground. Keep up the good work and we wish you well with successfully completing the major improvements, currently underway in your village.